

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 01389 250843Z POSS DUPE
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 ARA-06
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /102 W
-----252108Z 097681 /46

R 250805Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6411
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T A L NIAMEY 1389

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, NG, NI
SUBJ: MEETING WITH NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR

REF: NIAMEY 1383

1. NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR JIMETA PAID COURTESY CALL THIS
MORNING. HE OFFERED SOME INTERESTING COMMENTS NIAMEY
SUMMIT AND ZAIRE.

2. NIAMEY SUMMIT

HIS "OBSERVER SOURCES" SUGGEST THAT CHADIAN/LIBYAN
DELEGATIONS HAD LITTLE OPPORTUNITY IF ANY FOR BILATERAL
DISCUSSIONS ALTHOUGH THERE WERE MEETINGS AMONG
DIVERSE COMBINATIONS UNTIL 3 A.M. MONDAY. LIBYAN
AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM THAT GON WAS INFORMED THAT
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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 01389 250843Z POSS DUPE

QADAFI WOULD NOT COME AS OF 10:30 P.M. FRIDAY,
MARCH 18. JIMETA FEELS THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT
LIBYAN COMMUNICATIONS WAS SO VEILED THAT MESSAGE
WAS NOT PERCEPTIBLE TO GON. HE SPECULATED THAT THE
INDIRECT REFERENCES TO SPANISH SAHARA MAY HAVE BEEN
A TESTING OF THE WATERS TO SEE IF A PROPOSAL TO
EXPAND THE SAHARA GROUP TO INCLUDE MAURITANIA WOULD

FLOAT. HE ALSO OFFERED THE INFORMATION THAT AN "OFFICIAL LIBYAN" SOURCE HAD STATED THAT QADAFI DOES NOT TRUST BOUMEDIENNE. HE HAD A SHORT EXCHANGE WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF FONMIN CHAD WHO SAID THAT THE MEETINGS WERE A "GOOD BEGINNING". UNFORTUNATELY THE SEC GEN HAD NO TIME TO ELABORATE.

3. WITHOUT PROMPTING, HE SUGGESTED AN INTERESTING ANALYSIS OF THE UNIQUE ROLE OF NIGER IN THIS PART OF AFRICA. FIRST THE FOUR COUNTRIES HAVE THE COMMON NEIGHBOR--NIGER. TRAORE AND KOUNTCHE ARE CLOSE. MALI WAS FIRST COUNTRY VISITED BY KOUNTCHE AFTER HE CAME TO POWER. BOTH LEADERS ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN BORDERS.

4. SECONDLY, BOUMEDIENNE AND KOUNTCHE ARE VERY MUCH ALIKE PERSONALLY. BOTH ARE "AUSTERE". BOUMEDIENNE RESPECTS KOUNTCHE AS DO MOST OF AFRICAN LEADERS. TRAORE AND MALLOUM DO NOT HAVE MUCH IN COMMON. MALLOUME IS ENERGIZED MORE BY "GRANDEUR". ON THE OTHER HAND KOUNTCHE AND MALLOUM HAVE MUCH TO SHARE POLITICALLY. LIBYA'S ATTRACTION IS ITS SENSITIVITY TO NIGER'S STRATEGIC POSITION.

5. ZAIRE AFFAIR

HE VENTURED THAT NIGERIA HAS A PROBLEM WITH THE MDEIATION ROLE BECAUSE OF ITS PREVIOUS POSITION
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PAGE 03 NIAMEY 01389 250843Z POSS DUPE

DURING THE ANGOLAN CONFLICT, POST INDEPENDENCE AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF ZAIRE. HE SUGTESTED LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT WHO IS DOING WHAT TO WHOM COMPLICATES. IF THIS IS A SIMPLE CROSS-BORDER OPERATION BY KATANGA GENDARMES, IT CAN BE HANDLED EASILY. NIGERIA BY REASON OF ITS HISTROY AND POLICY WHICH IS POLICY OF OAU IS OPPOSED TO SSECESSION. IT IS ALSO OPPOSED TO EXTERNAL FORCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DIVIDING AN AFRICAN COUNTRY. IF ONLY THE GENDARMES ARE INVOLVED ALL OF AFRICA WILL TELL THEM TO STOP. THE SITUATION IS BECLOUDED BY POSSIBILITY OF HIDDEN INVOLVEMENT BY OTHERS. IF ANGOLANS, OR CUBANS OR SOVIETS ARE ACTIVELY ASSISTING THIS INCURSION, NIGERIA MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COPE. HE FELT THAT INFORMATION FROM ALL SIDES IS NECESSARY FOR NIGERIA TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE. JIMETA HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS ON ZAIRE BUT OFFERED THESE OPINIONS AS AN OBSERVER OF THE SCENE. SINCE HE IS A SEASONED DIPLOMAT (MOSCOW, UN, ETC.) THE INSIGHTS APPEARED

WORTHY OF REPORTING.JAMES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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